A LETTER FROM The Right Honourable *Ferdinando* Lord *Fairfax*, Sir *Hugh Cholmley*, Sir *Philip Stapleton*, Sir *Henry Cholmley*, Committees of the Commons House of Parliament residing at *York*.



Being a Relation of all the Paſſages at the great Meeting at *York*, on Thurſday the 12. of this inſtant May.

WITH

The Names of thoſe Gentlemen that Concurred with the King concerning a Guard for his Sacred Perſon. And the Petition of the County, with his Majeſties Anſwer to it.

ALSO,

The Free-holders PROTESTATION, incloſed in the Letter from the ſaid Committee, to Maſter Speaker, and ordered by the ſaid Houſe to be forthwith publiſhed in Print.

And the Votes againſt removing the next Term to *York*.

H. Elſing. Cler. Parl. Dom. Com.

LONDON,
Printed for *Richard Lownes*, and are to be ſold without *Ludgate*. 1642.

SIR,

IN our laſt Letter we gave you an account of our firſt and ſecond waiting on the King, we writ to you then, that his Majeſty commanded us to attend him yeſterday being Thurſday, to heare what he ſaid to the Gentlemen, which a little before the meeting he ſeconded by a particular Meſſage. Being come thither, his Majeſty cauſed the ſeverall Meſſages between him and the Parliament, mentioned in this encloſed paper printed to be read.

This was done with much humming and applauſe of the Kings Meſſages, by ſome perſons who had placed themſelves neere about where the King ſtood. But when any thing from the Parliament came to be read, with ſo much hiſſing and reviling the Parliament, that though in reſpect and duty to the Kings perſon we could not reſent it, as otherwiſe we ſhould have done; yet have ſince expoſtulated, and complained of it to his Majeſty. Some were ſo bold as to ſay openly, That the Parliament-men ſhould ſet their houſes in order, for many of them ſhould ſhortly have their heads off: One of which (as ſince we are credibly informed) was one *Hurſt*, a ſervant to one Maſter *William Crofts*. In this which was ſaid by the King, you will ſee what reaſon we had to vindicate our ſelves, and therefore we immediately repayred to the Deanes houſe with all the other Gentlemen, and there we took notice of the rough uſage we had received; We told them that it was neither indiſcretion nor diſobedience in us (as his Majeſty was pleaſed to call it) to deliver the Parliaments Meſſage, or to ſtay here though commanded to the contrary, ſince we conceived no man needed to be ſatisfied in ſo cleare a caſe as this. That every Member of each Houſe ought to obey their commands, when they were pleaſed to employ them. But ſince his Majeſty thought fit to bid them take heed of us, not knowing what doctrine of diſobedience we might preach to them, under colour of obeying the Parliament; we apppealed to every man, whether we had in word or deed, in publick or in private, done any thing that became not honeſt men, and perſons employed from the Parliament. That we had communicated our Inſtructions to his Majeſty, being that we would avow all our actions, and that we were confident it would not be ſaid we had tranſgreſſed them. This was very well taken and juſtified by the Countrey. Yeſterday there came divers thouſands of Freeholders to this City, though none but the Gentry were ſummoned, but

recei-

receiving a command from the King not to come to Court, they forbore, and ſtayed in the Caſtle-yard, yet ſent this Petition enclоſed to his Majeſty, and received the Anſwere annexed thereunto. There was likewiſe a Committee of twelve Gentlemen appointed yeſternight to conſider of drawing up an Anſwer to the Kings propoſition concerning a Guard: but nothing could be then done, becauſe it was paſt 3. a clock, before the Gentleman were admitted to the King. This morning the Freeholders aſſembled again in the Caſtle yard, and there they made this Proteſtation enclоſed, of their right of voting in what concerneth the Peace of the country, as having their intereſt therein.

When we all met all this morning againe at the Deans houſe, we who are your Committees received this Meſſage by Sir *Edward Stanhope*, That hee came from his Majeſty to command us, that wee ſhould depart from this meeting; and if we did ſtay, his Majeſty would judge us guilty of that hee ſpake of yeſterday, which was, *Tampering*. Notwithſtanding which Command, we read the fourth Article of our Inſtructions to the whole Company, that being pertinent to the buſineſſe wee were then upon; and deſired them to conſider, whether the Parliament had not expreſſed therein ſuch a care of the Kings ſafety, that there would be little need of Guards: Wee told them that we had a good right of being there as Free-holders of the County, but that in obedience to the King we would depart for this time; but whenſoever there ſhould be occaſion of our being there, in purſuance of our Inſtructions and Commands from the Parliament, we ſhould be ready. The whole Company received great ſatisfaction, and deſired a Copy of that inſtruction; which we gave them. We were the more willing at that time to goe from thence, becauſe we ſhould not onely give obedience to the Kings command, which otherwiſe he would have ſaid wee conſtantly diſobeyed; but becauſe the Committee of Twelve appointed yeſternight were then to withdraw; ſo that there was nothing for the preſent for us to do: We immediately went to the King, and beſought him that ſince we were continually ſo diſcountenanced by him, in the face of our Country, that he would be pleaſed to let us know in particular wherein we had given the occaſion; for we otherwiſe conceived we were deprived of that Liberty, which was our due in reſpect of that Intereſt we had here. His Majeſty was pleaſed to tell us, that if we would lay aſide that Condition of Committees from the Parliament, he would not hinder us to be there as Gentlemen of the Countrey: We humbly replyed, That we could not lay that downe, nor could we be abſent from any meeting where our preſence was requited, for the ſervice as Committees from the Parliament: To which his Majeſty ſaid, That indeed he thought we could not lay it down, neither that it was reaſonable we ſhould have Votes, and be in a double capacity. The Committee hath been here moſt part of this day, but not agreeing, ſixe of them have

drawn up this Answer enclosed, which they have communicated to the Gentlemen and Freeholders: The greater part of the Gentlemen, and all the Free-holders have agreed to, and subscribed it. The other five have concluded upon this other Answer, consenting to a guard of Horse; but this we do not heare they have gotten many names to, nor can we get a Copie of those names as yet, though these be very few, yet whether they can bring in any Horse or no, we cannot yet judge. The King hath received both these resolutions, which with his Answers to them you shall likewise have here inclosed. His Majesty had declared himselfe yesterday, that he would raise that Regiment which was Sir *Robert Strickland's*, for his foot guard: But he hath now laid aside that resolution. The Free-holders of the County are now newly summoned to attend his Majesty about a week hence, the three Ridings upon three severall dayes; but for what service we know not.

Sir, you have here a large Narrative of the passages at this Meeting, what dangers this poore Countrey lies under. We humbly refer it to you to judge, not taking upon us to deliver any opinion. The businesse lasted so long, that it hindered us from giving a more speedy account. Sir, this is what at this time is sent from

York 13, *Maii* 1642.

Your assured friends and servants,

Fer. Fairfax.
Hu. Cholmley.
Philip Stapleton.
He. Cholmley.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty.

WE Knights and Gentlemen whose names are subscribed do unanimously present this our answer to your Majesties propositions concerning the raising of a guard of Horse for the security and defence of your sacred person.

To which proposition, as we conceive our selves bound by Allegiance, do willingly concurre. For that purpose humbly desiring that the aforesaid may

may be raiſed by legall Authority: And likewiſe that it may conſiſt of perſons unqueſtionable in their Religion, and Gentlemen.

The ſubſtance of his Majeſties Anſwer.

HIs Majeſty gave them thanks, for it appeared as a ſatisfactory anſwer, and in it they had ſhewed great circumſpection and wiſedome, by chooſing ſuch whoſe Loyalties could not be queſtioned, by excluding Recuſants, and all ſuſpected to be diſaffected.

Sir *Thomas Fairefax*
Sir *William Conſtable*
Sir *Matthew Boynton*
Sir *Thomas Gower*
Sir *Wil. St. Quintin*
Sir *Edward Rodes*
Sir *William Crayley*
Sir *Thomas Norcliffe*
Sir *Arthur Ingram*
Sir *Richard Darley*
Sir *Iarvas Cutler*
Sir *William Fairefax*
Sir *Hugh Bethel*
Sir *John Savell*
Sir *William Lyſter*
Sir *Thomas Renington*
Maſter Tho. Jopſon
Henry St. Quintin
Arthur Noel
Tobias Ienkins
Henry Ienkins
John Ferrer. John Weſt
Henry Atkinſon
Henry Wythes
William Bethell
George Mountaine

Thomas Stockdale
William Gower
Richard Trewman
Sackvill Pope
Thomas Heblethwait
George Eure
George Marwood
John Savile of Medlee
John Saltmerſhe
William Copley
Lyonell Copley
Edward Gower
Cuthbert Creak
William Cobb
Doyley Gower
Thomas Rookeby
John Calverley
Francis Grimſton
John Anlaby
Arthur Beckwith
Chriſtopher Waters
Matthew Beckwith
Chriſtopher Copley
Thomas Croft
William Parker
George Trotter

Henry Weſtby
William Iemings
Thomas Bradford
Richard Wilbore
Iob Hackwod
Matthew Allured
Robert Sheppard
John Acklam
John Stillington
Iervas Hamand
John Cholmeley
Thomas Newark
Henry Savile
Lancelot Allured
John Lambert
Francis Grimſton
Mr Stephen Quintin
Willoughby Godfrey
John Stillington
John Beverley
Mr Bouton
George Weſtby
Benjamin Browne
Charles Fairfax
Henry Arthington
Henry Tempeſt.

Theſe are the names ſubſcribed in one ſheet, there being many other ſheets filed together all of them ſubſcribed, and amongſt them many Gentlemen of note, but I took note only of the firſt ſheet, having no more time.

To the Kings Most Excellent Maiesty

The Humble Petition of many thousands of Your Majesties peaceably affected Subjects of the County of York.

Humble sheweth,

THat many of your Petitioners being in their late desires of petitioning Your Majesty denyed accesse, kept back with violence, and receiving great affronts from some that have dependency on Your Majesty and others there Assembled, yet no provocation could remove them from their patience and duty, which proceedings are taken more to heart, Your Petitioners conceiving it undeniable that they have an Interest in the Common-wealth, and are as dutifull, and Loyall Subjects to Your Majesty as whomsoever, though diverse of them have beene since uncivilly prest by some in Your Majesties name to subscribe a paper, stiled the humble Answer to Your Majesties propositions, and threatned thereto, upon which blowes followed: and that when Your Majesties Army should bee on foot those should be first pillaged that refused such subscription, which we humbly conceive are positively contrary to Your Majesties own expressions, and is to the high dishonour of Your Majesty, and the great affrightment, and disturbance of Your Majesties liege people. Therefore your Petitioners having too just cause to feare Your Majesties Royall heart is still endangered to be possessed with some distaste of Your Petitioners humbly supplicate Your Majesty, to conceive better things of them, & to cast Your eye upon the present state of this Your Kingdom, that as Your Majesty hath often declared Your affection to this County, so now Your love might now be expressed in preserving the peace thereof, and that Your Majesty would admit of a right information of the cleare intentions of Your Petitioners, who are confident that no so absolute, and hearty observance to Your Majesties just Commands can be demonstrated as what Your Majesty in Parliament shall declare: which if it become devided (as God forbid) our hearts even tremble to consider the dangers and diminution of the honour, and safetey of Your Majesties posterity, and Kingdoms will unavoidably be put upon since, it is clear to every understanding, that it is not a divided part of one or [illegible] severall Counties that can offord that honour, and as [illegible] to your Majesty as the whole Kingdome, which you may command, no ground of feare or danger remaining, if a good Confidence were begot

betwixt

betwixt your Majesty and Parliament, whose grave, and loyall Counsells are as we humbly conceive the visible way under God to put a speedy end to the troubles of Ireland, and establish your Throne in righteousnesse. And lastly, your Petitioners do most humbly supplicate that we may represent our unfitnesse to become Judges betwixt your Majesty and Parliament in any thing, or dispute the Authority of either, which they humbly conceive doe fortefie each other, it being most unfit for them to act any thing therein but by their prayers for a right understanding betweene your Majesty and them, which we shall heartily doe, as also for your Majesties long and prosperous Reign, and as we are bound by our late Protestation shall be ready to maintain your Majesties just rights, the Priviledges and power of Parliament and the lawfull liberties of the Subjects.

The Kings *Answer* to the Petition of the Countrey at the Court at York, *May* 13. 1642.

His Majesty

HAving with some care considered this Petition, being the first of this nature that hath been presented to him wherein any appearing well affected to his service (though he hath heard of many in the Contrary) have misdemeaned themselves, hath commanded me to give you this answer.

That he doth totally discover proceedings complained in of the Petition, and expects that you and all other his loyal Subjects shall rest satisfied with his severall Gracious Declarations and constant peaceable practice towards his people to the contrary, and for further assurance upon just proofe made against any man who hath committed any violence in words or actions (without just provocation) full reparation shall be given to the parties injured. As for the rest of this Petition, his Majesty saith that it is so confused that he doth not well know what positive Answer to give it And the rather because it is grounded upon misinformation, both of his Majesties proceedings and intentions, as in particular, his Majesty saith he never intenced to have you to be judges betwixt him and his Parliament. And for the other part of this Petition hee referres to his Messages, Declarations, and Answers, whereby it will clearely appeare that his desire and intention is onely the preserving of the true protestant profession, the lawes of the land, the Libertie of his people, the peace of the Kingdome: And the peace of this County in particular.

The Protestation of the Freeholders. May 17. 1642.

WHereas his Majestie hath been pleased to give Summons to the Gentry of this County, to attend him at his Court at Yorke the the twelfth of May instant, to advise with him in some particulars, concerning

aing the honour and ſafety of his Majeſties perſon, and the well-being and peace of this our County, and in the ſaid ſummons was pleaſed to omit the Free-holders of this County, out of a tender reſpect of putting them to any extraordinary charge, yet we, conſcious of our ſincere Loyalty to his Majeſty our Gratious Soveraigne, and conceiving our ſelves according to the proportions of our eſtates, equally intreſted in the common good of the the County, did take bouldneſſe to come in perſon to York, and were ready to attend his Majeſties pleaſure there. And whereas his Majeſty was pleaſed then to propound ſeverall things to the purpoſe aforeſaid, at the meeting of the Country, to conſider a fit anſwer to return to his Majeſty thereupon, the doors of the meeting Houſe were ſhut againſt us, we utterly excluded, and in our abſence a Referree of Knights and Gentlemen choſen without our knowledge or conſent to draw up the ſaid Anſwer,

We the Freeholders who petitioned his Majeſty the day aboveſaid, concerning our ſelves abundantly injured in the Election (not knowing any warrant by writ or otherwiſe for the ſame) of the ſaid Referree, and that we ought not however to be concluded by any reſolution of theirs without our aſſent in their election, do abſolutely proteſt and declare againſt the ſaid election; & as far as concernes us, diſavow whatſoever ſhall be the reſult of their Conſultation thereupon, and do deſire a new and faire Eleiction of a Referree may be made, we admitted to our free Votes in the ſame, and ſome one or more to bee nominated by us, allowed to deliver our ſenſe for us, at another Meeting: And that we ſhall not make good in the leaſt reſpect any thing whatſoeuer which ſhall otherwiſe be concluded upon.

Die Martis, 17. Maii. 1642.

WHereas the Lords in Parliament, have this day been Informed, That the King is Reſolved to adjourn the next Term from Weſtminſter *to* York; *Vpon which, The Lords ſent a Committee to the Lord Keeper of the great Seal of* England, *to know of him, whether he had received any command touching the ſame, who acquainted the ſaid Committee, That he had received command from His Majeſty, to iſſue Proclamations, and writs, to that purpoſe.*

Whereupon, this Houſe taking the ſaid matter into conſideration, hath Voted, That the Kings removall of the Term to York, *from* Weſtminſter, *ſitting this Parliament, is Illegall.*

And hath further ordered, That the ſaid Lord Keeper ſhall not iſſue out any Writs, or Seal any Proclamation, for adjourning the ſaid next Term from Weſtminſter *to* York, *as aforeſaid.*

Joh. Brown, Cleric. Parl.

FINIS.